

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY



ADVISORY GROUP: Commissioner's Parent's Advisory Council (CPAC)
LIAISON: Leslie Spears

MEETING DATE: 11/03/2017
NOTE-TAKER/CONTACT: Megan Harris

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Mike Ball, Katie Bentley, Stacie Strotman, John Scott, Melissa Goins, Amy Irwin, Stephanie Spence, Stacy Hammer, Lisa Meiman, Jim Tackett, Cherie Dumar, Rhonda Logsdon, Cyndi Wrenn, Elisabeth Jensen, Tamsyn Oaks, Karen West, and Kathy Smiley

Agenda Item: Welcome

Discussion/Action: Commissioner shared new graduation requirements, accountability progress and welcomed members.

Discussion/Action: Equity issues and revising course codes statewide, being attached to the accountability system and recognizing careers of the future (ex. Earth science)

Agenda Item: Parent Engagement presented by KY PTA

Discussion/Action: PTA shared strategies about empowering parents to engage them in the educational process. Strategies for schools, districts, and KDE; recognizing it is a shared responsibility with all caregivers (parents, family, grandparents, etc.), with parents involved grades and test scores go up, and as well as attendance, skills and graduation rates. Ingredients to success are principals, family/school committees, professional capacity, student centered learning; and, using innovative teaching and going digital. The presentation included the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power and collaborating with community.

Key Questions/Concerns: How do we connect all available resources at the district/school level? How can more community partners get on board to support education?

Agenda Item: Legislative Updates

Discussion/Action: 2018 session overview, legislative and budget priorities, areas of interest, and federal update including KBE priorities. Budget, SEEK, transportation, required accountability items, full day kindergarten, Dyslexia. All state cabinets will submit a recommendation, as well as the KY Board of Education. The Governor gets the final approval; assistance to school districts in financial crisis (emergency fund, county to county merger), possibly bringing in a career development specialist. Areas of interest to government include budget, essential skills, financial literacy, drug education, charter school funding, HB50 (all agencies to review regulations), special session on pensions, and tax reform. Important issues for the federal government include funding very soon, as well as raising the debt ceiling, CHIP (Children's Health Care Program), and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) programs discussed.

Key Questions/Concerns: How many children in Kentucky are served by the CHIP program? Currently 95,000.

Agenda Item: Charter Schools

Discussion/Action: General Assembly passed in 2017, KY #44 with Charter. Charters are public schools, having their own separate board for overseeing of operations; testing and reporting are the same, educational requirements are also the same as public districts. Students apply, possibly get in through a lottery process or collective bargaining. Authorities (ex. Local district) must make the decision to have charter schools. In Jefferson and Fayette counties the Mayor can decide. In counties with multiple districts, who decides? The public or independent district the charter school will be in is the authority that will make the decision. Processes? Regulatory in process right now, public commentary the month of November, there is a hearing on 11/21/2017. Hope to have finalized by February, and first school could possibly open fall of 2018-2019 school year.

Key Questions/Concerns: Members would like a one-page document on charter schools for different groups (parents, teachers, community) describing - What do I need to know? What is it? What is it not? Does a Quick Reference Document exist? Commissioner agreed and KDE will develop.

Agenda Item: Closing Statements

Discussion/Action: Commissioner discussed expanding the council, meeting later in the day, adding two additional meetings per year and gathering input from members on council direction. Members thanked commissioner for hosting town hall meetings and were appreciative.

